

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:
  - sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred;
  - determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and
  - notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the control-plane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

9. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

- 5        pre-provisioning, in the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred; determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and

10      notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the control-plane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.

20      13. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

25      communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.

30      16. The method of claim 15, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

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